11(0)

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

**RECEIVED 2280**

**NOV 1 4 2014**

**NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: __Hotel Altamont__
Other names/site number: _____
Name of related multiple property listing: _____

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

## 2. Location

Street & number: __145 W. Broad Street__
City or town: _Hazleton_     State: ___PA___     County: __Luzerne__
Not For Publication: ☐     Vicinity: ☐

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this _X_ nomination __ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property _X_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___national     ___statewide     _X_local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
_X_ A     __ B     _X_ C     __ D

Andrea MacDonald                                          10/29/2014
**Signature of certifying official/Title:**                     **Date**
_Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission_
**State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

**Signature of commenting official:**                          **Date**

**Title :**                          **State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government**

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

_____  _Patrick Andrus_  _12/29/2014_  _____
Signature of the Keeper                          Date of Action

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private: **[X]**

Public – Local **[ ]**

Public – State **[ ]**

Public – Federal **[ ]**

### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s) **[X]**

District **[ ]**

Site **[ ]**

Structure **[ ]**

Object **[ ]**

Hotel Altamont                                                                                      Luzerne County, PA
Name of Property                                                                                   County and State

## Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 0 | buildings |
| | | sites |
| | | structures |
| | | objects |
| 1 | 0 | Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

_____

**6.  Function or Use**
**Historic Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions.)
 _DOMESTIC – Hotel_____ _____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

**Current Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions.)
 _VACANT/NOT IN USE_____ _____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**
(Enter categories from instructions.)
 _COLONIAL REVIVAL_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

___ _____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)
    Principal exterior materials of the property: __Brick, Limestone

**Narrative Description**
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe
contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that
briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style,
method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has
historic integrity.)

**Summary Paragraph**

The Hotel Altamont is located on the northeast corner of W. Broad Street and N. Church Street
in downtown Hazleton, Pennsylvania. The hotel is a ten-story, Colonial Revival-style building
constructed with a steel frame, clad principally in red brick. The ground floor is clad in limestone
and the building stands on a granite foundation. From a rectangular footprint at its base, the
building rises to ten stories with setbacks at various levels, creating a balanced composition with
a central ten-story block and lower eight and nine-story side wings. Surrounding the building are
concrete sidewalks on the south (W. Broad Street) and west (N. Church Street) elevations. To the
east, the building abuts a 1-story commercial building and a paved parking lot. To the north there
is a small, paved service alley, also known as W. Spruce Street. The building sits on a flat urban
lot along Hazleton's main commercial thoroughfare, W. Broad Street. The surrounding area
consists largely of a mix of late-19th to early-20th century commercial, civic, and mixed-use
buildings. The Hazleton city hall and the city's main public library stand just north of the hotel
on N. Church Street.

Hotel Altamont                                                                    Luzerne County, PA
Name of Property                                                                  County and State

## Narrative Description

The south (W. Broad Street) and west (N. Church Street) elevations are the most prominent and visible elevations and therefore contain the building's principal entrances and much of its Colonial Revival ornamentation. As the north (W. Spruce Street) and east elevations face a small alley and adjacent buildings, respectively, they are largely unadorned by the limestone features seen on the south and west elevations.

The ground floor is clad in limestone on the south, west, and north elevations and features modern aluminum storefront windows in most bays. Some bays also contain aluminum doors serving the individual storefronts (Photo #7). The center bays on the south and west elevations contain aluminum double doors serving as the principal entrances to the hotel's lobby. On the south elevation, the hotel entrance is recessed and clad in limestone with a granite base (Photo #6). On the east elevation, the ground and 1st floors, which comprise the kitchen wing, are clad in red brick and contains a variety of aluminum replacement windows (Photo #5).

*South or W. Broad Street Elevation* (Photos #1-3)
The 1st floor consists of a taller, *piano nobile* level. On the south elevation, the 1st floor features six original, double-height 9/9 double-hung wood windows with 3/3 wood sidelights and transoms. The center four windows on the south elevation feature limestone surrounds and arched tympana, which are ornamented by classically decorated limestone friezes. The arched bricks surrounding the tympana also contain limestone keystones. The two windows flanking the center four feature simple limestone surrounds and balustrades, but with flat entablatures in place of the tympana. There are also small, oval limestone cartouches above the two flanking windows. All six windows are united visually by a simple limestone string course that runs along the tops of the windows.

An additional limestone string course separates the 2nd floor from the upper floors, which are largely uniform through the 7th floor. The 4th through 8th floors each have six bays with original, 1/1 steel windows. The eastern and westernmost bays project very slightly from the center four and are defined by brick quoining on each corner. These side or flanking bays contain an additional limestone string course between the 7th and 8th floors, that does not continue through the center four bays, and are capped above the 8th floor by a limestone cornice. The 9th floor rises above the flanking bays only in the center four bays, which contain original, 1/1 steel windows and are capped by a limestone cornice. The 10th floor, clad in stucco, is set back significantly from the main south elevation and contains three 1/1 steel windows. There is a limestone cornice at the roofline.

*West or N. Church Street Elevation* (Photos #2 & 3)
Like the south elevation, the center three bays on the 1st floor of the west elevation feature original, double-height 9/9 double-hung wood windows with 3/3 wood sidelights and transoms in addition to limestone surrounds and tympana with Classical limestone friezes and keystones. The center three bays also project slightly from the main wall surface, with wide brick quoining on each corner and a limestone entablature and cornice with a brick parapet wall.

The bays immediately adjacent to the center three (to the north and south) both contain multi-light replacement windows in the lower portion and two-light sliding aluminum replacement windows in the upper portion. The two southernmost bays echo the treatment of the flanking bays on the south elevation. They feature original, double-height 9/9 double-hung wood windows with 3/3 wood sidelights and transoms with simple limestone surrounds, balustrades, and an entablature. There are also oval limestone medallions located above the windows. The two northernmost bays contain brick infilled openings which echo those in the two southernmost bays, also featuring limestone surrounds, balustrades, entablatures, and medallions. The limestone string course which appears at the tops of the windows on the south elevation is continued on the west elevation.

Like the south elevation, a limestone string course separates the $3^{rd}$ floor visually from the upper floors. The center seven bays on the upper floors of the west elevation (or the central ten-story block) are set back significantly from those on the $1^{st}$ through $3^{rd}$ floors and from the two projecting side "wings." The center bays contain seven original, 1/1 steel windows on the $4^{th}$ through $10^{th}$ floors with brick quoining on each end and separating the center five bays from the flanking two. There is a limestone string course between the $9^{th}$ and $10^{th}$ floors and between the $10^{th}$ floor and cornice, which is also limestone. There are also round medallions above the center five bays.

The two side wings, which rise only through the $8^{th}$ floor, are defined by brick quoining at each corner and contain two 1/1 steel windows per floor above the $4^{th}$ floor. The wall surface that jogs in to meet the west elevation of the central ten-story block also contains two 1/1 steel windows per floor on both wings. There is a limestone string course between the $7^{th}$ and $8^{th}$ floors and a limestone cornice with brick parapet wall, both of which continue where the wings jog in to meet the central ten-story block. The $9^{th}$ floor above the wings, which is part of the central ten-story block, and therefore set back from the west elevation of the two wings, contains two 1/1 steel windows per floor.

*North or W. Spruce Street Elevation* (Photo #4)
On the north elevation, which faces an alley and is less prominent than the south and west elevations, the $1^{st}$ floor window openings, which match those of the west and south elevations in size, have been infilled with brick and modern aluminum windows. The two windows closest to N. Church Street feature simple limestone surrounds, but the remaining windows contain no ornament or other features apart from limestone sills. Above the $2^{nd}$ floor, the limestone string courses and cornice of the west elevation continue on this side in the two westernmost bays (closest to N. Church Street), which are framed by brick quoining. The two westernmost bays, which rise to seven stories, contain two 1/1 steel replacement windows per floor. The next four bays in from N. Church Street, which rise to nine stories, contain four 1/1 steel replacement windows per floor. There are limestone cornices and brick parapet walls at both rooflines. There is also a 2-story kitchen wing that forms the easternmost portion of the north elevation.

*East Elevation* (Photo #5)
Like the north elevation, the east elevation features minimal ornamentation. The two southernmost bays (closest to W. Broad Street), which form an 8-story side wing, abut a 1-story

Hotel Altamont                                                      Luzerne County, PA
Name of Property                                                    County and State

commercial building on the 1st floor, contain no window openings on the 2nd floor, and feature two 1/1 steel windows on the upper floors. The 8th floor, which is set back from the lower floors, also contains two 1/1 steel windows. There is a limestone string course between the 7th and 8th floors and a limestone cornice at both rooflines.

In the remaining bays on the east elevation, the 1st and 2nd floor consist of a projecting side service wing constructed prior to 1946. The service wing, constructed in red brick similar to that of the original hotel building, contains a variety of modern aluminum windows and doors. Above the service wing, the west elevation rises to nine stories in the center seven bays, which all feature 1/1 steel windows except on the 9th floor, which contains no windows in some bays and smaller paired windows in others. Like the other elevations, the ten-story block features a limestone cornice and brick parapet wall. The two northernmost bays (closest to W. Spruce Street) do not contain a matching side wing as the west elevation does, but instead the wall surface is flush with that of the central ten-story block. All floors in the two northernmost bays contain three 1/1 steel windows per floor except the 10th floor, which contains two. There is a limestone cornice and brick parapet wall at the roofline of this nine-story section.

*Interior*
On the 1st floor, the hotel's main public rooms are largely intact. The center lobby space, which is rectangular in shape, is surrounded by a large dining room on the W. Broad Street side, a lobby mezzanine on the N. Church Street side, and a ballroom space, currently subdivided, on the W. Spruce Street side. To the east of the lobby are a series of hotel offices and service spaces and corridors.

The lobby, which is reached from ground level by marble steps leading from the entrances on W. Broad Street and N. Church Street, features terrazzo floors, marble baseboard molding, plaster walls, plaster cornice molding, and Art Deco style bronze light fixtures (Photo #13). On the north and south sides, the lobby has a pair of double-wide marble stairs leading from the lobby floor to the dining room and ballroom spaces on either side (Photo #10). The mezzanine and circulation spaces flanking the lobby, which serve as intermediate spaces between the lobby and the major public rooms, feature iron railings between the lobby's perimeter columns or piers (Photos #12, 15 & 19).

The dining room, which spans the full width of the 2nd floor along the south, W. Broad Street elevation, is a double-height space punctuated by square plaster columns accented by wood trim and acanthus leaf capitals (Photos #16-17). Along the perimeter walls, the exterior windows and the doorways leading to the lobby are framed by pilasters with matching acanthus leaf capitals. The room has a carpeted floor and plaster walls and features twelve original crystal and brass chandeliers. Apart from the acanthus leaf capitals, the room contains classical ornamentation such as plaster cornice molding, wood door surrounds and pediments in wood (on the doorways leading to the lobby), plaster friezes above the doorways, and wood baseboard trim (Photo #18).

A former ballroom space likewise spans the full width of the 2nd floor along the north, W. Spruce Street elevation. This double height space has been subdivided with drywall partitions and contains a dropped tile ceiling, but most of the room's historic ceiling with associated features,

including plasterwork and Classical columns, remains intact above the dropped ceiling (Photos #20-23).

The upper floors have been subdivided many times over the years with new partitions and contain a series of offices, bedrooms, bathrooms, common spaces and kitchens. Most of the finishes are contemporary and include drywall partitions, dropped acoustical tile and drywall ceilings, carpeting, linoleum and ceramic tile floors. Some historic wood window trim remains. On the 2nd floor, on the west side of the building there is a small room with some historic plasterwork visible above the dropped ceiling, in addition to a stone fireplace surround and mantle (Photo #29).

Despite the subdivision of the upper floors, the building's core circulation spaces remain intact. The building contains two original stairways and three original elevators, although the cabs have been updated. The two stairways are located along the east wall of the central ten-story block, one at the north end and one at the south end (Photos #36 & 41). Both are U-return in configuration and feature concrete treads and risers with metal pipe handrails. Both stairways provide access between the basement and top floor. There are two passenger elevators located adjacent to the southernmost stairway and one freight elevator located adjacent to the northernmost stairway. The elevator lobby off of the main lobby on the 1st floor is intact with historic finishes. The elevator lobbies on the upper floors remain but have been closed off from the adjacent corridors with contemporary drywall partitions with modern wood or metal doors. All three elevators provide access between the basement and top floor.

*Integrity*
The Hotel Altamont retains integrity. The aspect of design is retained in the building's architectural style and urban residential form, which includes its defining Colonial Revival features, ground floor storefronts, recessed main entrance, and massing with setbacks at the upper levels. The quality, placement and condition of the construction materials, as well as the Colonial Revival style, are both highly characteristic of the period they represent and also remain largely intact. The workmanship is expressed in a consistent architectural style that was of good quality and in keeping with contemporary trends.

Additionally, the Hotel Altamont retains integrity in the aspects of feeling and association. Although no hotel rooms remain – the upper floors of the building have been subdivided numerous times during their later use as senior housing and as a halfway house – the building's voluminous lobby, dining room and other public spaces, which include intact finishes throughout, effectively convey a sense of place and the notable social history of this once prominent hotel.

Lastly, the Hotel Altamont also retains integrity in the aspects of location and setting. The building remains in its original location at one of the most prominent intersections in downtown Hazleton. Although some demolition and new construction have occurred in the surrounding neighborhood over the building's ninety-year history, it continues to stand among a variety of late-19th to mid-20th century buildings and serve as a landmark on the W. Broad Street commercial corridor.

Hotel Altamont                                                    Luzerne County, PA
Name of Property                                                  County and State

## 8.  Statement of Significance

**Applicable National Register Criteria**
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

[x] A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

[ ] B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

[x] C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

[ ] D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

[ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes

[ ] B. Removed from its original location

[ ] C. A birthplace or grave

[ ] D. A cemetery

[ ] E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure

[ ] F. A commemorative property

[ ] G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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## Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
_SOCIAL HISTORY_____ _____
_ARCHITECTURE_____ _____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

## Period of Significance
_1924-1965___ _____

## Significant Dates
_____ ____
_____
_____

## Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____

## Cultural Affiliation
_N/A_____
_____ _____
_____ _____

## Architect/Builder
_Thomas, Martin & Kirkpatrick_____
_____ _____ _____
_____ _____ _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900                                      OMB No. 1024-0018

Hotel Altamont                                                    Luzerne County, PA
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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Hotel Altamont has significance under Criterion A, Social History, as site of numerous anthracite industry conferences and negotiations that had a major impact on labor conditions for miners and the national supply of coal. John L. Lewis, International President of the United Mine Workers of America, frequently used the hotel as his base during negotiations and strikes involving the anthracite industry. The Hotel Altamont also has significance under Criterion C, Architecture, as the first of numerous Colonial Revival "Main Street" hotels designed by Philadelphia architects Thomas, Martin & Kirkpatrick in northeastern Pennsylvania throughout the 1920s. The period of significance begins in 1924 with the opening of the hotel and ends in 1965, when the hotel finally closed.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

*A Brief History of the Hotel Altamont's Development*
The Hotel Altamont was first proposed in July of 1922 by the Markle Hotel Company, organized the same year by George B. Markle, III and other local businessmen. Markle, born in 1890, was the grandson of George Bushar Markle, founder of one of the largest coal companies in Pennsylvania, G.B. Markle & Co., which later became the Jeddo-Highland Coal Company.[1] In 1914, *Coal Age* declared that "When we speak of America's independent anthracite coal interests, we must necessarily refer to the famous Markle family in Pennsylvania, for the two are practically synonymous."[2]

After forming a partnership of investors known as the Markle Hotel Company, Markle chose as his site the northeast corner of Broad and Church Streets, on what was then known as Pardee Square. In reality, the square was an estate on which another prominent Hazleton family, the Pardees, built a large mansion in the mid-nineteenth century. The property extended along W. Broad Street from N. Church to N. Laurel Street, then north on Laurel to W. Green Street. Like other Main Street hotels during the 1920s, the Altamont would be located at one of the city's most prominent intersections. The hotel was completed by 1924, hosting a grand opening celebration on July 4.

Hotels such as the Altamont began to spring up in towns and small cities around the United States after 1920. The ever more affordable automobile allowed a new kind of freedom of travel

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[1] The Markles were one of Hazleton's most prominent families. Their legacy includes the Markle Building at 8 W. Broad Street in Hazleton, an 11-story, Classically-inspired limestone office tower, built in 1910, which is the city's tallest building and former home to the Markle Banking & Trust Company. John Markle, another son of George B., Sr., also donated the funds to build the Beaux-Arts style Markle Memorial Library just north of the Hotel Altamont on N. Church Street, completed in 1912, which remains today as the main branch of the Hazleton Area Public Library.
[2] "Who's Who in Coal Mining," *Coal Age* 9.5 (September 1914): 391.

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that the railroads could never equal. Americans who could afford to purchase cars increasingly used them as a means of touring the country at their own pace, no longer tied down by limited rail networks and schedules. By the 1920s, however, the towns and small cities people hoped to visit typically could only boast one or two declining, often shabby nineteenth-century hotels, often near busy train stations and depots. The new automobile-focused tourism economy demanded a new type of accommodation, a hotel that could 1) cater to the increasingly discriminating tourist who was used to the splendor of grand hotels in large cities such as Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, or New York, and 2) be located in a more desirable area of town far from the noise and bustle of the railroad, which drivers now had the choice to escape. Such an area was often a prominent intersection along a town's main street or commercial corridor.[3]

In Hazleton, by the early twentieth century, the need for a hotel that could provide accommodation to an increasing amount of visitors was dire. As the periodical *The Alarm Clock* noted in 1924, "Until the Altamont opened, [Hazleton] could offer no modern hotel accommodations to the commercial traveler and to the thousands of tourists attracted to it by the scenic automobile roads and the city's cool, bracing mountain air."[4] Local businessman George B. Markle, III, "led by civic pride in the development of his home city," recognized this need and had the foresight to form the Markle Hotel Company in 1922 in order that he might fulfill it. Indeed, "The [Altamont] was conceived and built in answer to the demand of a discriminating traveling public – a demand for modern comfort and pleasant surroundings, coupled with the perfect hotel service that the traveler of today expects and will go out of his way to find."[5] Shortly after the hotel was completed, the Markle Hotel Company held a grand opening party for local residents on the evening of July 4, 1924.[6]

*The Altamont as Community Forum and Meeting Place*
Although the Main Street hotel, as it has been termed by historians John A. Jakle and Keith A. Sculle, was ostensibly developed to serve the growing population of automobile owners with the means to travel for leisure, it almost invariably had a second purpose. Hotels like the Altamont were also built to serve as a public forum and meeting place for a wide range of speakers and organizations. "True, localities needed to entertain strangers from far away," Jakle and Sculle write, "but an entire town could profit from a hotel also, at least in a social sense." In fact, hotel meeting and dining rooms, in addition to other public spaces, were vital to the development of community initiatives and social involvement in towns and small cities after 1920. "They provided," Jakle and Sculle continue, "neutral ground whereby political and other social factions, despite their differences, might find an overarching sense of commonality."[7]

Accordingly, one of the most frequent uses of the Altamont's public rooms throughout the hotel's history was as a gathering place for Hazleton residents to hear candidates vying for a number of political offices. Candidates for the U.S. Congress, Senate, Pennsylvania governorship

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[3] John A. Jakle and Keith A. Sculle, *America's Main Street Hotels: Transiency and Community in the Early Auto Age* (Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 2009): 17-19.
[4] "The Altamont," *The Alarm Clock* 4.4 (August 1924): 2.
[5] Ibid., 2.
[6] Ibid., 2-3.
[7] Ibid., 20-21.

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and even the presidency of the United States used the hotel as a stage to campaign during their visits to the city. Senators such as Joseph R. Grundy in 1930 and nominees for governor, including Thomas Kennedy in 1938 and Edward Martin in 1942, regularly visited the hotel to hold campaign events and rallies.[8] Even John F. Kennedy gave a speech in front of the Altamont in October of 1960 during his campaign for the presidency (Fig. 14).[9]

In addition to its role as a political campaign venue, the Altamont often played host to the events and meetings of a variety of local and regional organizations. Hazleton's local Kiwanis and Rotary International Clubs, for example, held regular meetings and receptions at the hotel from the 1920s through the early 1960s. Likewise, professional groups as diverse as the Engineers' Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania and the Luzerne County Dental Association often used the hotel for events and meetings. Such gatherings sometimes lent a tone of glamor to the hotel when a keynote speaker was a celebrity figure such as Amelia Earhart, who addressed the Hazleton Exchange Club at a dinner there on October 28, 1930.[10] The hotel was also a common venue for private celebrations such as weddings, anniversary parties and other events. At a private dinner to honor notable local bookseller Karl Goedecke on May 1, 1953, renowned poet Ogden Nash recited a poem he composed in the hotel to an attentive crowd. [11]

*The Altamont as Center of Anthracite Industry Negotiations*
Apart from events as diverse as visits from politicians and the weddings of local residents, the Hotel Altamont's most significant role was as frequent host to the conferences and conventions of Pennsylvania's vast anthracite industry, often bearing witness to negotiations, agreements, and speeches that had a major impact on labor conditions for miners and the national supply of coal. John L. Lewis, international president of the United Mine Workers of America, often used the hotel as his headquarters during negotiations and strikes as he fought for miners and their right to a fair contract. Due to its central location in the eastern middle coalfield of the region and the hotel's connections to the anthracite industry through its founder, George B. Markle, III., the Altamont was a logical venue for such crucial gatherings after it opened in 1924.[12] The hotel persisted in this role nearly to its closing in 1965.

The northeastern Pennsylvania anthracite region experienced a wave of strikes beginning around 1922, focused mainly on workers' demands for contracts that would include higher wages and the check-off system, a method by which an employer would deduct a certain amount from the workers' wages to pay their union dues with a single check. The check-off was a much simpler dues paying process and allowed the union to "maintain a tighter and more unified

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[8] "Hazleton Turns out for Kennedy: Home Boy," *Reading Times*, April 2, 1938, and "Candidates Put Up at Same Hotel," *Warren Times-Mirror*, October 28, 1942. Kennedy did not win the election in 1938, but Martin was successful in 1942 and served as governor until 1947, after which he became a U.S. Senator for Pennsylvania.
[9] *Standard-Speaker* [Hazleton, PA], October 29, 1960.
[10] *Pittston Gazette*, October 22, 1930. Coincidentally, another famous aviator, Charles Lindbergh, was a guest at the hotel on September 29, 1928 after his plane was forced down at the Hazleton-Veale Aviation Field due to fog.
[11] Nash wrote the poem on Altamont letterhead, which remains in the collections of the Pennsylvania State University Libraries.
[12] Thomas Dublin and Walter Licht, *The Face of Decline: The Pennsylvania Anthracite Industry in the Twentieth Century* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2005): 22-23.

membership."[13] Naturally, mine operators scoffed at the practice, opposing any measure that would cede power to the union and allow them to grow stronger.

Although the use of coal as a domestic heating fuel had been declining nationally by the early 1920s, much of the densely populated northeastern United States still relied on it heavily. Whenever miners threatened a strike, "…hundreds of thousands of homeowners and tenants shuddered at the prospect of a coalless winter." Additionally, "Fear of discomfort and apprehension over cold and illness were quickly translated into political concern." In many cases, therefore, Pennsylvania politicians became involved in negotiations to avert strikes and prevent widespread shortages.[14] Occasionally, even the President of the United States became involved if a strike threatened to disrupt the supply of coal nationally. Indeed, Calvin Coolidge became essential to the discussions that ended a major miners' strike in 1925 and 1926.

Two widespread strikes by miners in 1922 and 1923 had been settled successfully by Pennsylvania's two senators along with Governor Gifford Pinchot, all acting as mediators between the miners' union, the United Mine Workers of America, and mine operators. In late summer of 1923, coal miners and operators arrived at and signed an agreement, largely orchestrated by Pinchot, that would provide a two-year contract to the miners and a degree of security among domestic users of coal against shortages caused by strikes. By late summer of 1925, however, as the contract's August 31 expiration date drew ever closer, anxiety set in among the miners and operators. With the mine operators signaling their reluctance to continue the contract, there was little hope among miners that an agreement could be reached in time. Therefore, without a new wage contract, the prospect of a strike and coal shortage in September loomed on the horizon in Pennsylvania. Although John L. Lewis and other UMW representatives had met with the operators in Atlantic City on August 4, the talks ended prematurely without an agreement.[15]

On August 24, 1925, John H. Uhl, a tobacco manufacturer from Wilkes-Barre and chairman of a citizens "no-strike" committee, asked John L. Lewis to hold a meeting in order that the groups might come to an agreement on a new contract to present to the mine operators. Both then in Philadelphia, the men agreed to begin the conference the next day in Hazleton at the Hotel Altamont.[16] Uhl represented an organization of business leaders from Northeastern Pennsylvania who would be significantly affected if the supply of coal to their plants was disrupted even for a short period of time.

Lewis agreed to Uhl's request and, on his arrival in Hazleton on August 25, the Hazleton city council met and accompanied him to the Hotel Altamont in an impromptu parade complete with brass band.[17] The meeting began shortly after, presided by Hazleton mayor James G. Harvey

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[13] Robert Zieger, "Pennsylvania Coal and Politics: The Anthracite Strike of 1925-1926," *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* 93.2 (April 1969): 244.

[14] Ibid., 244-245.

[15] Ibid., 245-246.

[16] "Proposals of Mediators to be Laid Before Union Men at Open Hazleton Session This Morning," *Scranton Republican,* August 25, 1925.

[17] "Lewis is Urged to Avert Strike in Coal Fields," *Harrisburg Telegraph*, August 25, 1925.

with numerous business leaders from Scranton and Wilkes-Barre present. Beginning at 11am, the main event of the conference was Lewis's speech, entitled the "Anthracite Controversy," which would catalyze a series of events leading to the most consequential anthracite strike in Pennsylvania history. Over two hours and forty-five minutes, Lewis laid out a thorough argument for increasing miners' wages, full recognition of the UMW, adoption of the check-off system, and uniformity of wage scales throughout the anthracite industry. Understanding that the operators were likely hoping for a strike with the goal of selling surplus coal at enhanced profit, Lewis urged an agreement as early as possible. At the end of the day on August 25, Uhl and his no-strike committee endorsed Lewis' position, hoping to avoid a strike that would not only result in increased coal prices, but would significantly damage their own business as well.[18]

Acting effectively as a third party or arbitrator between the UMW and the mine operators, Uhl and his no-strike committee presented Lewis' demands to the operators the next day in Wilkes-Barre. Although the operators eventually acceded to the union and agreed to restart negotiations, they continued to stubbornly refuse to abandon their opposition to the miners' demands for the check-off system and a wage increase.[19] The next day, on August 27, Lewis rather dramatically declared a suspension of all mine operations beginning on September 1. The strike, which affected 158,000 mine workers, eventually forced the involvement of Pennsylvania senator George Wharton Pepper, governor Gifford Pinchot, and the president of the United States, Calvin Coolidge in an effort to reach an agreement. The strike, which lasted 165 days, was the longest and most costly in Pennsylvania's history and "caused incalculable misery and suffering and which had contributed mightily to the decline of an entire part of the state and an important industry." In the end, on February 12, 1926, when the UMW and operators finally reached an agreement, the miners won on the issue of the check-off, but their insistence of a fairer wage was skirted, with only an agreed-upon yearly review of wages through 1930.[20]

Even after the pivotal 1925 anthracite strike, the Altamont continued to play host to the meetings, conventions and conferences of both the UMW and operator organizations. Due to its advantageous position among the northeastern Pennsylvania coal fields the hotel became, in effect, ground zero for the discussion of all issues related to the region's anthracite industry for the next two decades and beyond.

In fact, John L. Lewis continued to use the hotel as a base during many of his visits to the region. On one occasion in October of 1925, Lewis stayed in the hotel the same night as A.B. Jessup, general manager of the Jeddo-Highland Coal Company.[21] Coincidentally, Jeddo-Highland was owned by the Markle family and one of the largest coal companies against which the strike was aimed. And, on April 28, 1930 Lewis again used the Altamont as his base during a convention to negotiate the current state of the wage scale for miners, which lasted through May 5.[22]

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[18] "Lewis Will Meet Operators if They Alter Stand," *Scranton Republican*, August 26, 1925.
[19] "Lewis Confers with Uhl; Demands Owners Alter Stand," *Scranton Republican*, August 27, 1925.
[20] Zieger, 257-258.
[21] "Lewis at Hazleton," *Scranton Republican*, October 10, 1925.
[22] "Early Adjournment of Mine Convention is Now Anticipated," *Scranton Republican*, May 6, 1930.

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In May of 1929 the Anthracite Co-operative Association, a recently formed economic commission for the anthracite industry, held its first annual convention at the Altamont. The meeting, which attracted attendees from over 100 communities in the anthracite region, was presided by both coal mine operators and representatives from the United Mine Workers. Bringing together mine operators, coal merchants, industrial financiers, miners and citizens groups, the meeting was meant as an official forum to discuss the current state of the anthracite industry in northeastern Pennsylvania. One of the central issues discussed at the meeting was the significant progress made by the industry in improving the quality of hard coal (used for domestic heating) since the strike of 1925-26, an accomplishment detailed by Daniel T. Pierce, vice-chairman of the Anthracite Operators' Conference in his keynote speech. Pierce also outlined an effort by his organization to research ways of reducing coal prices for the consumer. Other industry leaders, such as Thomas Kennedy, international secretary-treasurer of the UMW and C.W. Laycock, president of the Miners' Bank of Wilkes-Barre, also gave talks. With such prominent industry leaders in attendance, the *Scranton Republican* called the convention "one of the most important meetings of its kind ever held in the anthracite region."[23]

At a subsequent convention at the Altamont in April of 1930, the Anthracite Co-Operative Association expanded its aims, discussing, among other things, how to bring in diversified industry to the region, relieve unemployment, develop an extensive tourist trade, organize a regional beautification program, and design a coal smoke abatement program for domestic consumers. The meeting was attended by 400 delegates representing approximately 158,000 anthracite mine workers and lasted until May 5.[24]

In addition to the UMW and the Anthracite Co-Operative Association, the National Mine Rescue Association held numerous meetings at the hotel over the 1930s and 1940s. At their May 20, 1933 meeting, mine fires, explosions, and restoration work were key on the agenda for discussion.[25] The Anthracite Citizens' Committee, a group formed in 1936 to solve problems in the coal industry as they relate to domestic users, held their second meeting at the Altamont on June 3, 1936.[26] That same month, John L. Lewis once again presided over negotiations at the Altamont during the tri-district convention of the UMW. At the meeting, the group ratified a new wage and working agreement, drawn up between the union's scale committee and the anthracite operators in New York City earlier that week, which gave them a seven-hour day and five-day work week, the check-off system, and numerous other minor provisions.[27]

The Altamont's role as de facto meeting place for the northeastern Pennsylvania anthracite industry continued unabated during the 1940s. In fact, the onset of World War II ensured that coal would remain an essential fuel source for years to come. On July 31, 1942, operators and miner representatives met at the hotel to hear Brigadier General Brice P. Disque, head of the United States Office of Solid Fuels Coordinator for War, discuss the compulsory conversion of heating equipment from fuel oil to anthracite coal. The measure, meant to conserve oil for the

[23] "Anthracite Group Will Hold Annual Meet at Hazleton," *Scranton Republican*, May 10, 1929.
[24] "Mine Chieftains to Attend Meet of 3 Districts," *Scranton Republican*, April 28, 1930.
[25] "Safety Meeting Will Be Held at Hazleton," *Scranton Republican*, May 3, 1933.
[26] "Coal Problems to be Tackled by New Group," *Scranton Republican*, May 22, 1936.
[27] "Miners Ratify New Wage Pact," *Reading Times*, June 20, 1936.

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war effort, made necessary the production of 4,000,000 additional tons of hard coal over the following year.[28] Additionally, after the war, John L. Lewis used the Altamont once again for discussions with some mine operators on August 25, 1952, on his way to Wilkes-Barre to preside over yet another contract negotiation.[29]

The wartime increase in coal production was only temporary, however, and shortly after the war ended the anthracite industry continued to decline. In an effort to diversify industry in Hazleton to prevent the largely anthracite-based economy from collapsing, Pennsylvania Power & Light Company (PP&L) sought to lure other types of manufacturers to the city. The utility realized that the coal companies, which were the major consumers of electricity in the region, were in trouble. Led by John Davidson, a PP&L executive, the company held numerous fundraisers at the Altamont over the late 1940s and 1950s to provide incentives to potential new employers.[30] In partnership with the Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, the company raised over $650,000 in a "gigantic mass meeting" of civic leaders at the hotel in 1947, which convinced the Electric Auto-Lite Company, a major manufacturer of generators for automobile lights, to expand their Eastern United States operations by building a plant in Hazleton. The move of Electric Auto-Lite into Hazleton provided approximately three hundred new jobs, many of which went to coal miners who had recently been laid off.[31]

As the decline of the anthracite industry forced many coal companies to close, the support of John L. Lewis and the UMW became increasingly important to those still employed in the mines. Throughout the 1950s, Lewis continued to visit Hazleton and use the Altamont as his base for negotiations during several critical strikes. In May of 1956, Lewis came to Hazleton to mediate discussions between officials of the Glen Alden Coal Company and their workers, who had been on strike for two weeks. Glen Alden, the "world's largest anthracite producer" according to the *Hazleton Plain Speaker*, had refused to pay any money into the Anthracite Health and Welfare Fund for workers until other companies had paid back assessments. The strike halted the work of over 5,000 hard coal miners in Glen Alden's ten mines in the Hazleton and Wilkes-Barre area. In an attempt to put the miners back to work, Lewis held numerous meetings at the Altamont over the course of May 23rd and 24th, finally coming to an agreement by which Glen Alden would pay their royalties for the first quarter of 1956. Although Lewis had successfully brokered a deal to end the strike, which was one of the first general coal strikes in over twenty years, no agreement was reached to assure payment of royalties beyond the first quarter.[32]

Lewis visited the Altamont for the last time on June 16, 1957. On the table that day was the proposal by the Panther Valley Coal Company to close the Lansford breaker, which would mean the loss of 227 jobs.[33] Although 80 of the miners would be retained by the company in other

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[28] "Anthracite Faces Big Year," *Indiana Gazette*, July 32, 1942.

[29] "John L. Lewis Stops at Hazleton," *Williamsport Sun-Gazette*, August 26, 1952.

[30] Dublin and Licht, 119.

[31] "Autolite Payroll Tops $11 Million in Decade Here," *The Plain Speaker* [Hazleton, PA], November 17, 1959.

[32] Glen Alden and other coal companies were required to pay to the fund fifty cents for every ton of coal mined. "Pres. John L. Lewis Will be at Altamont," *Hazleton Plain Speaker*, May 23, 1956 and "Glen Alden to Make Payment; Strike Ended," *Hazleton Plain Speaker*, May 24, 1956.

[33] A *breaker* is an above-ground coal processing plant that breaks coal down into useful sizes.

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locations and another 80 would be absorbed by the Coaldale Mining Company, the plan would still leave 67 men without work. Rather than fighting the company on the loss of the jobs, which could have resulted in no jobs retained or absorbed by other companies, Lewis believed this was the best result the miners could achieve. Therefore, by so quickly agreeing to the company's plan, Lewis tacitly accepted that the decline of the anthracite industry in Northeastern Pennsylvania would necessarily mean a loss of jobs.

In January of 1960, Lewis announced his retirement and that Thomas Kennedy would succeed him as the international president of the UMW. Although Kennedy was a Hazleton native and maintained a residence there, he conducted most of his business in Washington, D.C., only occasionally visiting the Altamont.

Although the Altamont was no longer the center of anthracite industry meetings and negotiations, the hotel still maintained its role as the center of community life in Hazleton. Throughout the late 1950s and early 1960s, the Altamont continued to host groups such as the Kiwanis and Rotarians for meetings and often was the venue for weddings, anniversary parties, and other celebrations by Hazleton residents.

*The Closing of the Hotel Altamont*
Although the Hotel Altamont continued to play a major role in the life of the city throughout the postwar period, Hazleton, like many other cities in Pennsylvania, could not do enough to prevent an economic decline caused by the falling fortunes of the anthracite industry. As America increasingly switched from coal to other sources of fuel, anthracite centers such as Hazleton slowly began to lose population. From a peak of 38,009 residents in 1940, the city's population declined to 35,491 by 1950 and further to 32,056 in 1960. Thus, between 1940 and 1960, Hazleton lost over 15% of its population.[34]

Likewise, fewer and fewer travelers viewed Hazleton as an attractive destination either for business or pleasure. Although many Main Street hotels in Northeastern Pennsylvania attempted to prevent closure by consolidating into a hotel system – the Altamont was absorbed into the Sterling Hotel system in the 1950s – this measure could not forestall decline.[35] The Altamont's business was also significantly impacted by the rising popularity of the motel, which became more appealing to motor travelers because such lodgings were cheaper and offered more convenient parking facilities. Sterling vice-president Harry W. Clark told the Hazleton *Standard-Speaker* in 1965, "there are simply not enough people to go to bed at night" at the Altamont. Thus Clark announced on March 3, 1965 that the hotel would close two weeks later.[36]

Shortly after the Altamont closed, it was announced that the Lutheran Welfare Service of northeastern Pennsylvania would purchase the building and convert it into a home for seniors. At a cost of $200,000, the hotel was transformed into a residential facility with rooms for 174 seniors, a purpose which it served for the next several decades.[37]

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[34] United States Census (1940, 1950, 1960).

[35] The Sterling Hotel System included hotels in Allentown, Wilkes-Barre, and Montrose, PA and Binghamton, NY.

[36] "Mayor Seeks Means of Keeping Altamont," *Hazleton Standard-Speaker*, March 4, 1965.

[37] "Hazleton Hotel to be Converted," *Reading Eagle*, June 4, 1965.

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## Criterion C, Significance in Architecture

The Hotel Altamont is also significant under Criterion C, Architecture, as a prominent example of the numerous Colonial Revival hotels and other civic buildings designed by the Philadelphia architecture firm of Thomas, Martin & Kirkpatrick in the 1920s. The firm was prolific in their design of Main Street hotels for small to mid-size Pennsylvania cities during the early 1920s, for which the Altamont served as archetype.

In the early 1920s, as Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and other large northeastern cities built more and more grand hotels, smaller towns and cities in Pennsylvania sought to mimic the splendor of their larger metropolitan rivals. Unlike the large cities, however, where there could be numerous hotels of equal grandeur vying for the business of well-heeled guests, smaller cities such as Hazleton, Easton, and Allentown typically could support only one hotel of this type. Accordingly, as the primary home to visiting guests and the symbol of a town's modernization and evolution into a small city, such hotels were often located at highly prominent intersections. The Altamont exemplified this trend with its location at the northwest corner of W. Broad Street, Hazleton's primary commercial artery, and N. Church Street, along which the city's principal civic buildings were located, including the city hall, public library, and other municipal facilities.

In July of 1922, George Markle hired the Philadelphia firm of Thomas, Martin & Kirkpatrick to design the new Hotel Altamont. The firm formed around 1919 in Philadelphia when the partners Sydney E. Martin (1883-1970) and Donald Morris Kirkpatrick (1887-1966), in practice together since 1912 as Martin & Kirkpatrick, were joined by architect Walter H. Thomas (1876-1948). All three men had studied architecture both at the University of Pennsylvania and the École des Beaux Arts in Paris. It is unclear how Markle became familiar with the firm, but his choice is consistent with other cities' desires to replicate the grandeur of hotels in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and sometimes New York by hiring architects from those cities. The Philadelphia firm, although only in partnership for three years when commissioned by Markle, had developed a reputation for designing quality Colonial Revival-style civic buildings in and around Philadelphia. Although the partners had individually worked on hotel projects earlier in their careers, the Hotel Altamont was the first designed by the firm since their incorporation three years prior.[38]

Thomas, Martin & Kirkpatrick fittingly chose a Federal or Adam-inspired Colonial Revival style in their design for the new hotel. Colonial Revival gained in popularity in the United States starting around 1900 and was typically used in residential applications. The style was also particularly appropriate when applied to the hotel form because it simultaneously evoked the refined taste of hotels in much larger cities and recalled the residential characteristics for which it was most often used. Tourists visiting the hotel were meant to feel at home in the Altamont, which in many cases evoked the houses they had just traveled from.

The firm's choice of the Colonial Revival style for the Altamont was characteristic of a shift in hotel design that had recently taken place in New York and Philadelphia, among other cities. In

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[38] Sandra L. Tatman and Roger W. Moss, *Biographical Dictionary of Philadelphia Architects: 1700-1930* (Boston: G.K. Hall & Co., 1985): 448-449, 508-509, 783-786.

those places, many of the grandest hotels, including the Waldorf and Bellevue-Stratford, respectively, had been constructed in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries in a sumptuous and often ostentatious French style. With richly sculptural facades in a variety of masonry and soaring Mansard roofs, such hotels were meant to attract visitors with their magnificence and evoke a "distinct impression of elation or gratification," as Charles Matlack Price, one of the foremost commentators on hotel design during this period, noted in 1917. But the elation did not last long. Guests and critics alike began to tire of the superficiality and even vulgarity, as some believed, that the French style so self-consciously displayed. As a result there was a reaction against "the prevalence of the hotel ideal of magnificence." A new ideal was substituted, as Matlack described, "an ideal of restraint, combined with an expression of that refined correctness which the English call 'smartness.'"[39]

That restraint was ultimately expressed in a Colonial Revival idiom influenced in many respects by Federal or Adam-style features from the early-nineteenth century in America and Britain. The beginnings of this shift were first seen in Philadelphia's new Ritz Hotel, designed by architect Horace Trumbauer and completed in 1912, only a decade after the French-inspired Bellevue-Stratford. Located directly across the street from the Bellevue, the reposed, Classically-inspired façade of the Ritz, largely clad in red brick with a simple, arcaded limestone base, presented a stark contrast to the former's lavishly articulated, all-stone edifice. The shift to a simpler ideal in hotel design was also present in New York's Ritz Hotel, designed by Warren and Wetmore in 1917. Both the Philadelphia and New York versions of the Ritz, considered models of hotel design their respective cities, influenced a profusion of other new "smart" hotels in the Colonial Revival style in cities across the country.[40]

Although hotel architects often faced challenges adapting Colonial Revival features to large-scale hotels – the Federal or Adam style was historically present in smaller domestic applications – many found the same architectural vocabulary in small- to mid-size Main Street hotels, such as the Altamont. In fact, Thomas, Martin & Kirkpatrick excelled in developing a Colonial Revival hotel archetype for Northeastern Pennsylvania in the early 1920s. In their composition for the Hazleton hotel, the firm followed the lead of the earlier Ritz hotels in their application of the base-shaft-capital composition, a common motif in Classically-inspired design. The 1st and 2nd floors, for example, were articulated with a limestone façade with tall arched windows on the principal elevations while the intermediate floors, or shaft, were largely clad in unadorned brick. The top of the building featured a series of limestone string courses and cornices to create a fitting capital. Thomas, Martin & Kirkpatrick, although not the first to do so, also introduced a series of setbacks on the upper floors of the Altamont to create a more balanced and less severely cubic form, a composition that was difficult to accomplish in much taller, high-rise hotels in places like Philadelphia and New York.

On the interior of the building, the Hotel Altamont was fairly typical of the mid-sized Main Street hotel constructed throughout the United States in the 1920s. Its layout was informed by the hotel's dual purpose as both lodging for the traveling public and as a community center and

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[39] Charles Matlack Price, *The Practical Book of Architecture* (Philadelphia.: J.B. Lippincott, 1917): 214-216.
[40] Ibid., 216-217.

meeting space. Indeed, the Altamont contained the major public spaces expected of any respectable hotel, including a central lobby flanked by a large dining room and ballroom, but also included other amenities to be found in mid-sized hotels containing from 150 to 200 rooms (Fig. 3-6 and 8-10). According to C. Stanley Taylor and Vincent R. Bliss in their 1928 *Hotel Planning and Outfitting*, a mid-sized hotel should contain, in addition to guest rooms, a restaurant and coffee shop, a barbershop, stores and shops, a banquet space or ballroom, and sometimes club rooms and private dining rooms.[41] The Altamont contained all of these with the exception of a club room. As in many other Main Street hotels, such a variety of public spaces reinforced the Altamont's role as a community center for Hazleton, a place "where people in large groups could gather for planned events but also where people could gather spontaneously in pairs or in small groups."[42]

The Altamont contained nearly all of the requisite public spaces of a mid-sized hotel, but it was the innovative way in which they were laid out that caught the attention of *Hotel Monthly* in 1924. The mezzanine, the periodical noted, "is not the old type lobby mezzanine floor which we all condemn, but really an intermediate floor to serve as an overflow in taking care of crowds for special functions in the ball room" (Fig. 10). Additionally, architect Walter H. Thomas stressed in a letter included in the same article that "this is the only small hotel with the 'lobby only' at the intermediate floor level, thus making possible stores on both of the main streets for their entire frontage." Thomas further explained that "The division of the lounge and lobby is, I believe, also unusual." In other small and mid-sized hotels, the lobby and its associated lounge typically was located on the ground floor of the building, but Thomas, Martin & Kirkpatrick chose to place it on the second level. This innovative choice allowed the maximum of income-producing space along the perimeter of the ground floor, allowing for a cafeteria, drug store, barbershop, dress shop, and cigar shop.[43] Such retail amenities were available to guests and Hazleton residents alike.

George Markle was very happy with Thomas, Martin & Kirkpatrick's design. In a letter to the architects after the hotel was completed in 1924, he wrote "I want to congratulate you on the success with which you have worked out the problems in connection with the Hazleton hotel. Personally, I am much pleased with your arrangement of the public space. This arrangement not only gives a light interior and the maximum of income producing space, but you have so arranged your exchange that you can reach every portion of the building from it, with the minimum of effort and inconvenience."[44]

In addition to the Altamont, Thomas, Martin & Kirkpatrick also designed Main Street hotels in Easton, Pottsville, and Allentown, Pennsylvania, all of which remain today. The Hotel Easton, built in 1926 at 140 Northampton Street in Easton, was listed as contributing to the Easton Historic District in 1980. The influence of the Altamont's architectural style and form on the Hotel Easton is clear; the ten-story, Colonial Revival-style building features a limestone base and

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[41] C. Stanley Taylor and Vincent R. Bliss, eds., *Hotel Planning and Outfitting: Commercial, Residential, Recreational* (Chicago: Albert Pick-Barth Companies, 1928): 15.
[42] Jakle and Sculle, 44.
[43] "The Altamont of Hazleton, Pennsylvania," *Hotel Monthly* 32 (September 1924): 33, 35.
[44] Ibid., 35.

a *piano nobile* floor with arched windows, all framed by brick quoining. The massing and setbacks on the upper floors also replicate the form of the Altamont nearly exactly (Fig. 15).

The Necho Allen Hotel, built in 1927 at 101-107 S. Centre Street in Pottsville, was listed as contributing to the Pottsville Downtown Historic District in 1980. Although simpler in its massing – the Necho Allen does not have setbacks like the Altamont or Easton Hotels, resulting in a more cubic form – it nevertheless is strongly influenced by the Colonial Revival style, with tall arched windows on the second floor, brick quoining framing the symmetrical main elevation, and string courses dividing the lower base from the shaft and "capital" of the building (Fig. 16).

Thomas, Martin & Kirkpatrick also gained a reputation outside of Pennsylvania, later designing hotels such as the Brigantine Hotel in Brigantine, New Jersey, the William Edwards Hotel in Apopka, Florida, the Baron Steuben Hotel in Corning, New York, and the Hotel Viking in Newport, Rhode Island.

Apart from hotels, Thomas, Martin & Kirkpatrick designed numerous commercial, civic, and religious buildings in addition to private residences. George Markle was apparently so pleased with the Hotel Altamont's design that he recommended the architects to his brother, Alvan Markle, to design his new estate outside of Hazleton. The firm drew up plans late in 1922 and the house, a large 32-room fieldstone mansion named "Highacres" was completed in 1924 in Sugarloaf Township, roughly three miles northwest of downtown Hazleton. The estate, which remains today, now houses the Hazleton campus of the Pennsylvania State University. Additionally, the firm designed the Y.M.C.A. in Philadelphia's Germantown neighborhood in 1928. Designed in a similar Colonial or Georgian-Revival style, the building was individually listed on the National Register in 1991.

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**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

_____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
_____ previously listed in the National Register
_____previously determined eligible by the National Register
_____designated a National Historic Landmark
_____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey   #_____
_____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
_____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

**Primary location of additional data:**
_____ State Historic Preservation Office
_____ Other State agency
_____ Federal agency
_____ Local government
_____ University
_____ Other
        Name of repository: _____

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____**

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** ___~ 0.35 acres____


Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)
1. Latitude: 40.955000                    Longitude: -75.976667

2. Latitude:                                        Longitude:

3. Latitude:                                        Longitude:

4. Latitude:                                        Longitude:


**Or**
**UTM References**
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927    or    ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone:                    Easting:                            Northing:

2. Zone:                    Easting:                            Northing:

3. Zone:                    Easting:                            Northing:

4. Zone:                    Easting :                           Northing:


**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The boundary of the property is shown as a dotted line on the accompanying map entitled "Hotel Altamont: Site Plan with National Register Boundary."

Hotel Altamont                                                         Luzerne County, PA
Name of Property                                                          County and State

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The nominated property includes the entire parcel on which the building is situated and
historically associated with the property. No extant historically associated resources have been
excluded.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: __Kevin McMahon, Associate_____
organization: ___Powers & Company, Inc._____
street & number: ____1315 Walnut Street, Suite 1717_____ _____
city or town:__Philadelphia_____ state: ___PA_____ zip code:__19107_____
e-mail___kevin@powersco.net_____
telephone:__(215) 636-0192_ _____
date:__June 10, 2014_____ _____

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

-  **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.  Key all photographs to this map.

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

## Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Hotel Altamont

City or Vicinity: Hazleton

County: Luzerne                     State: PA

Photographer: Robert Powers

Date Photographed: February 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

| Photograph # | Description of Photograph |
|---|---|
| 1. | South and east elevations, view northwest. |
| 2. | West and south elevations, view northeast. |
| 3. | West elevation, view east. |
| 4. | North elevation, view southeast. |
| 5. | East elevation, view southwest. |
| 6. | South elevation, main entrance, view north. |
| 7. | South elevation, storefront, view north. |
| 8. | Ground floor vestibule, view south. |
| 9. | Ground floor commercial space (southwest corner of building), view north. |
| 10. | 1st floor, lobby, view south to dining room. |
| 11. | 1st floor, lobby, view west to N. Church Street entrance. |
| 12. | 1st floor, lobby mezzanine, view north. |
| 13. | 1st floor, lobby from the mezzanine, view southeast. |
| 14. | 1st floor, elevator lobby, view east. |
| 15. | 1st floor, lobby from dining room. |
| 16. | 1st floor, dining room, view west. |
| 17. | 1st floor, dining room, view west. |
| 18. | 1st floor, dining room, door detail, view north. |
| 19. | 1st floor, lobby mezzanine south of the banquet room, view west. |
| 20. | 1st floor, former banquet room space, view east. |

Hotel Altamont _____          _____ Luzerne County, PA
Name of Property                                                                County and State

| | |
|---|---|
| *21.* | 1$^{st}$ floor, former banquet room space, view north. |
| *22.* | 1$^{st}$ floor, former banquet room space, wall detail, view west. |
| *23.* | 1$^{st}$ floor, former banquet room space, ceiling detail. |
| *24.* | 1$^{st}$ floor, service corridor, view south. |
| *25.* | 1$^{st}$ floor, service room, view north. |
| *26.* | 2$^{nd}$ floor, view west. |
| *27.* | 2$^{nd}$ floor, elevator lobby, view east. |
| *28.* | 2$^{nd}$ floor, hallway, view south. |
| *29.* | 2$^{nd}$ floor, view north. |
| *30.* | 3$^{rd}$ floor, view south. |
| *31.* | 3$^{rd}$ floor, view northeast. |
| *32.* | 3$^{rd}$ floor, view southwest. |
| *33.* | 5$^{th}$ floor, view southwest. |
| *34.* | 5$^{th}$ floor, view northwest. |
| *35.* | 5$^{th}$ floor, view northwest. |
| *36.* | 5$^{th}$ floor, stairway, view northeast. |
| *37.* | 5$^{th}$ floor, hallway, view north. |
| *38.* | 5$^{th}$ floor, view southeast. |
| *39.* | 7$^{th}$ floor, hallway, view south. |
| *40.* | 7$^{th}$ floor, view west. |
| *41.* | 7$^{th}$ floor, stairway, view east. |
| *42.* | 7$^{th}$ floor, view east. |

**United States Department of the Interior**

National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Hotel Altamont
Name of Property
**Luzerne County, PA**
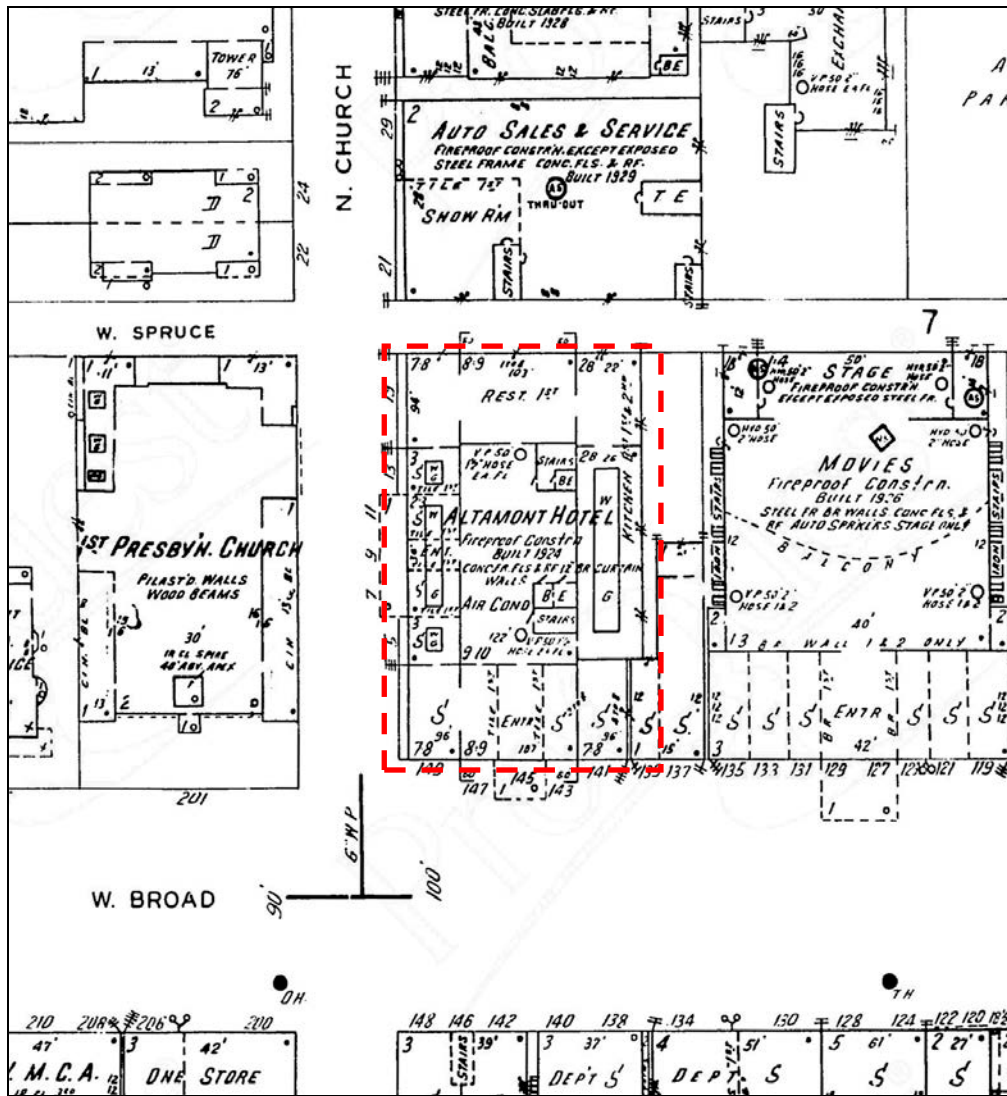County and State
**N/A**
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

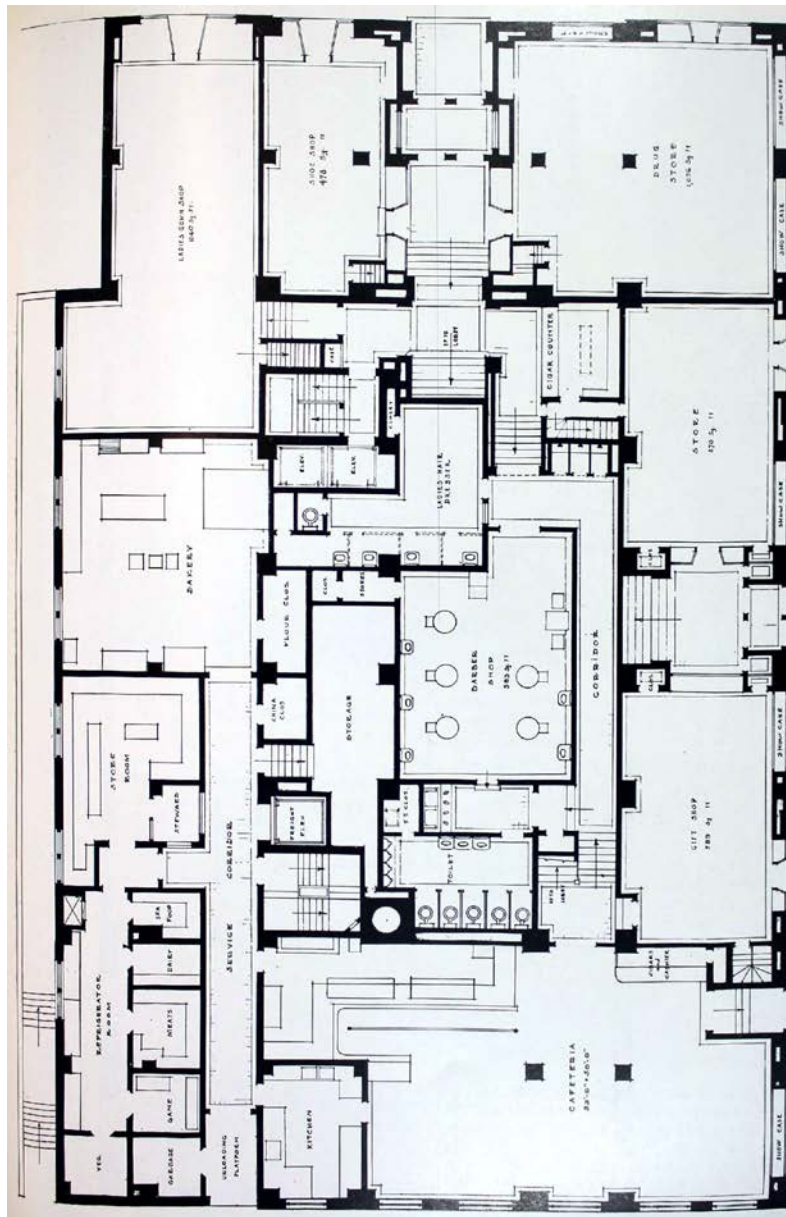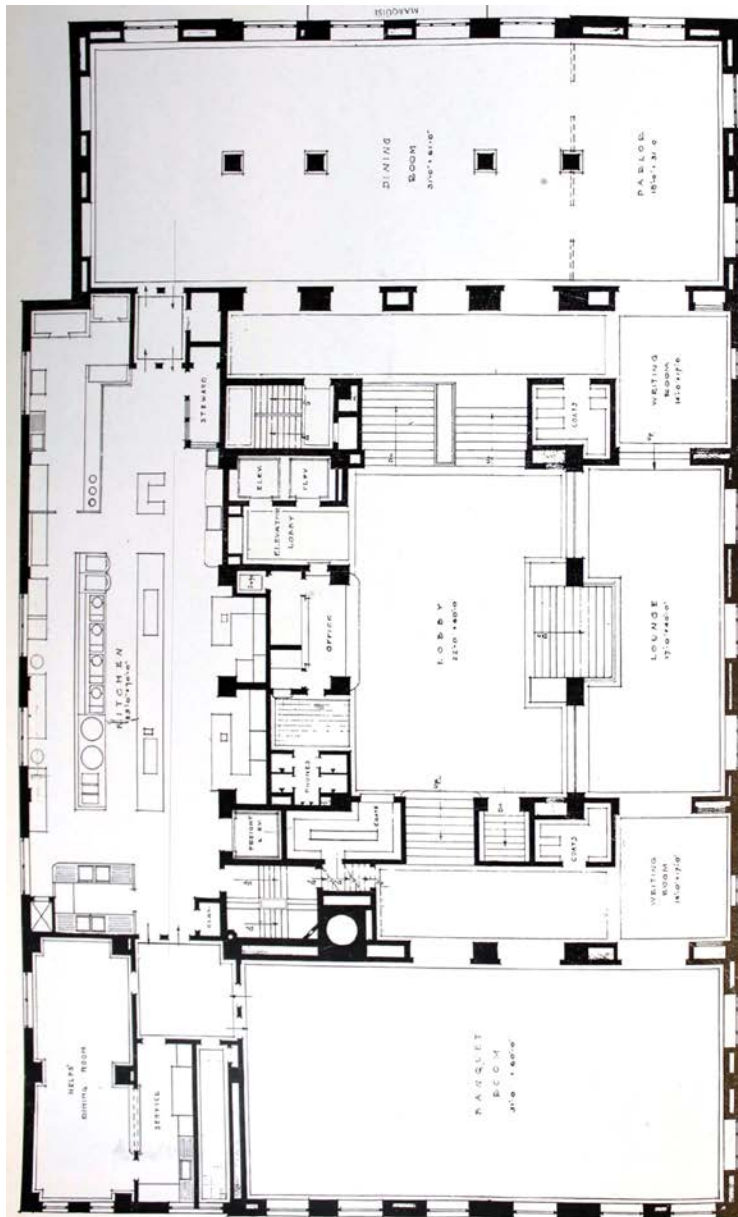Historic Images      Page  1

**Index:**

| Figure # | Description of Figure |
|----------|----------------------|
| 1. | Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1946. |
| 2. | Watercolor rendering of the Hotel Altamont by Thomas, Martin & Kirkpatrick, 1923. |
| 3. | Ground Floor Plan, 1924. |
| 4. | First Floor Plan, 1924. |
| 5. | Second Floor Plan, 1924. |
| 6. | Typical Upper Floor Plan, 1924. |
| 7. | Full-page advertisement from the *Plain Speaker*, July 5, 1924. |
| 8. | Lobby, view north, 1924. |
| 9. | Dining Room, view north, 1924. |
| 10. | Lobby Mezzanine, view south, 1924. |
| 11. | Historic Postcard, c. 1925. |
| 12. | Letter mailed on Hotel Altamont stationery in 1937. |
| 13. | View west on Broad Street from N. Church Street, showing Hotel Altamont marquee, c. 1940. |
| 14. | View from the front of the Hotel Altamont during speech by John F. Kennedy, 1960. |
| 15. | Hotel Easton, Easton, PA. 1920s postcard |
| 16. | Necho Allen Hotel, Pottsville, PA. 1920s postcard |

W. GREEN STREET

N. CHURCH STREET

W. SPRUCE STREET

95'

150'

87'

Hotel Altamont
145 W. Broad Street

W. BROAD STREET

NORTH
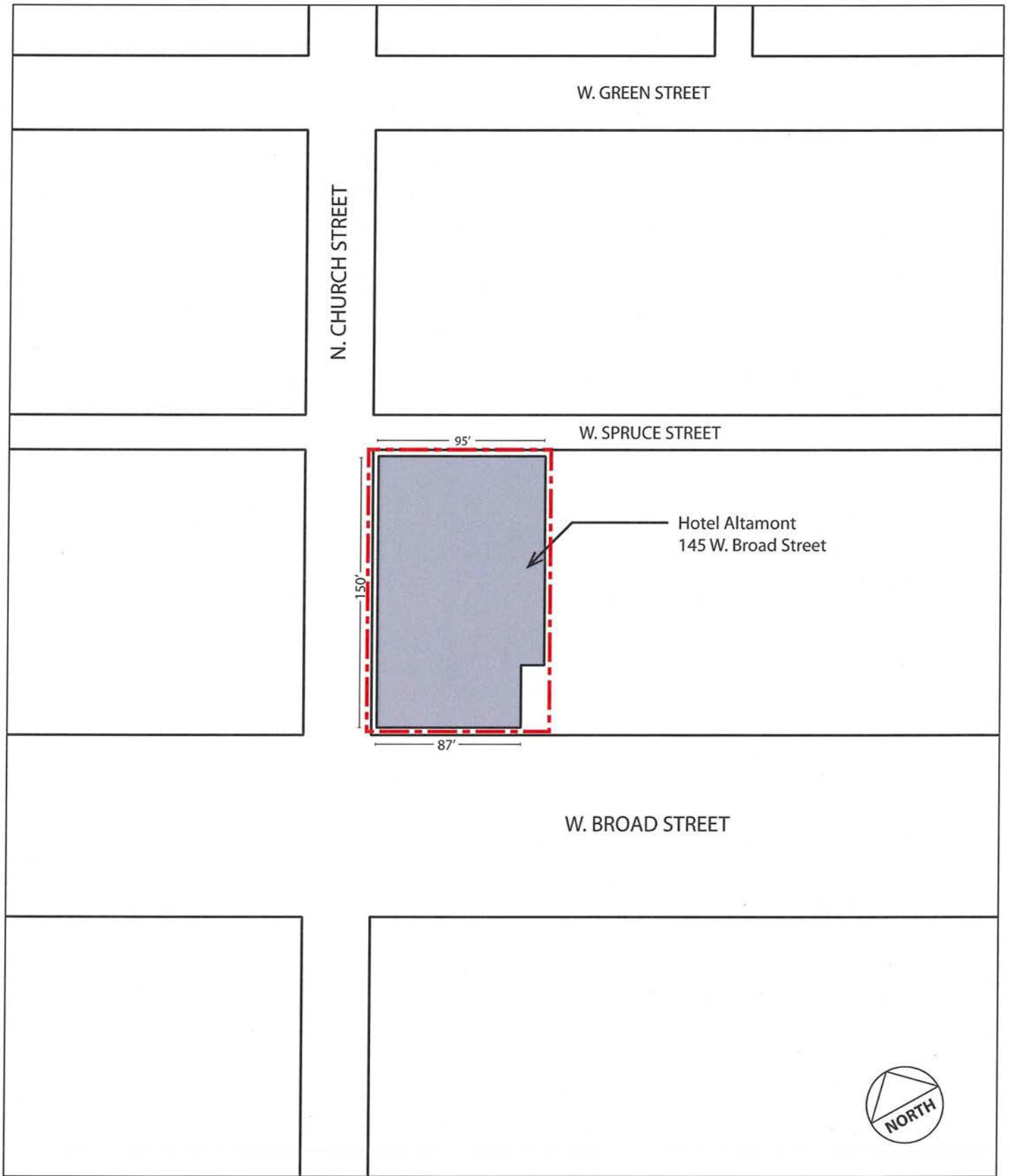
Hotel Altamont
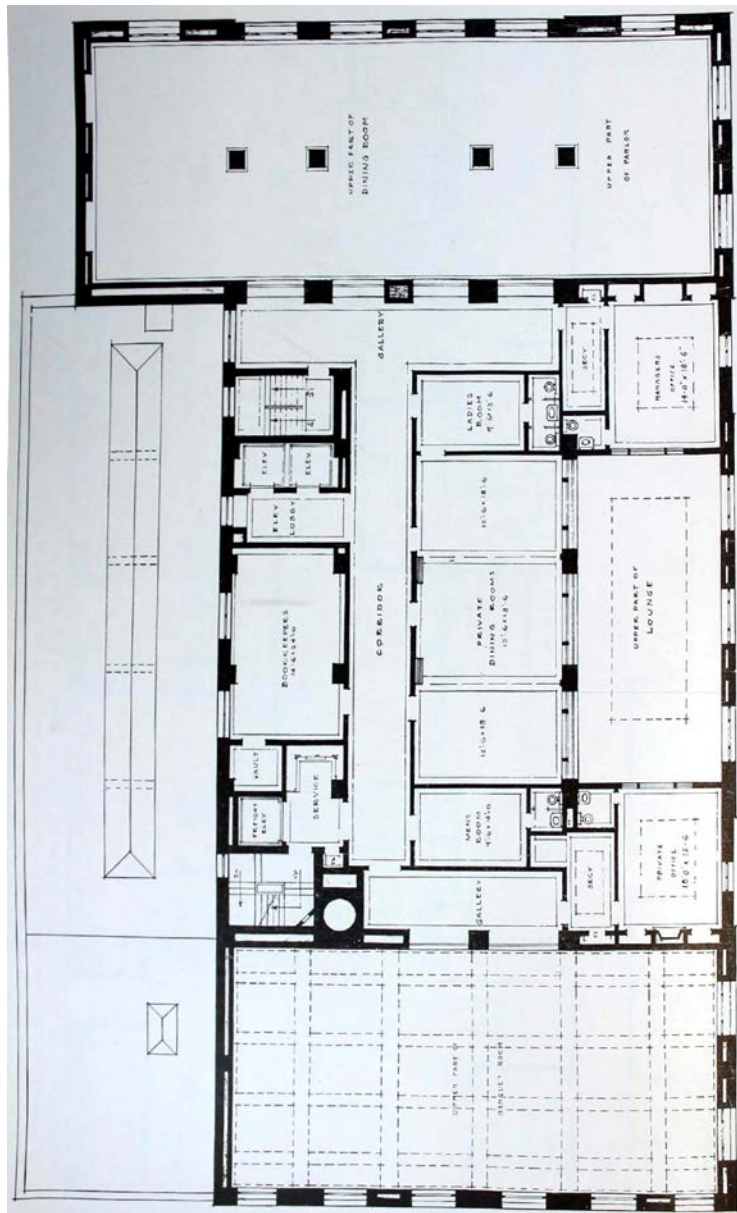145 W. Broad Street
Hazleton, Luzerne County, PA
Proposed National Register Boundary

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

| Hotel Altamont |
| --- |
| Name of Property |
| **Luzerne County, PA** |
| County and State |
| **N/A** |
| Name of multiple listing (if applicable) |

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**Figure 1 –** Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1946.

**United States Department of the Interior**

National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**
**Continuation Sheet**

| Hotel Altamont |
| --- |
| Name of Property |
| **Luzerne County, PA** |
| County and State |
| **N/A** |
| Name of multiple listing (if applicable) |

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THE ALTAMONT HOTEL, HAZLETON, PA.
Thomas, Martin and Kirkpatrick, *Architects*

**Figure 2 –** Watercolor Rendering, Hotel Altamont, 1923
(Thomas, Martin and Kirkpatrick)

**United States Department of the Interior**
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Hotel Altamont
Name of Property
**Luzerne County, PA**
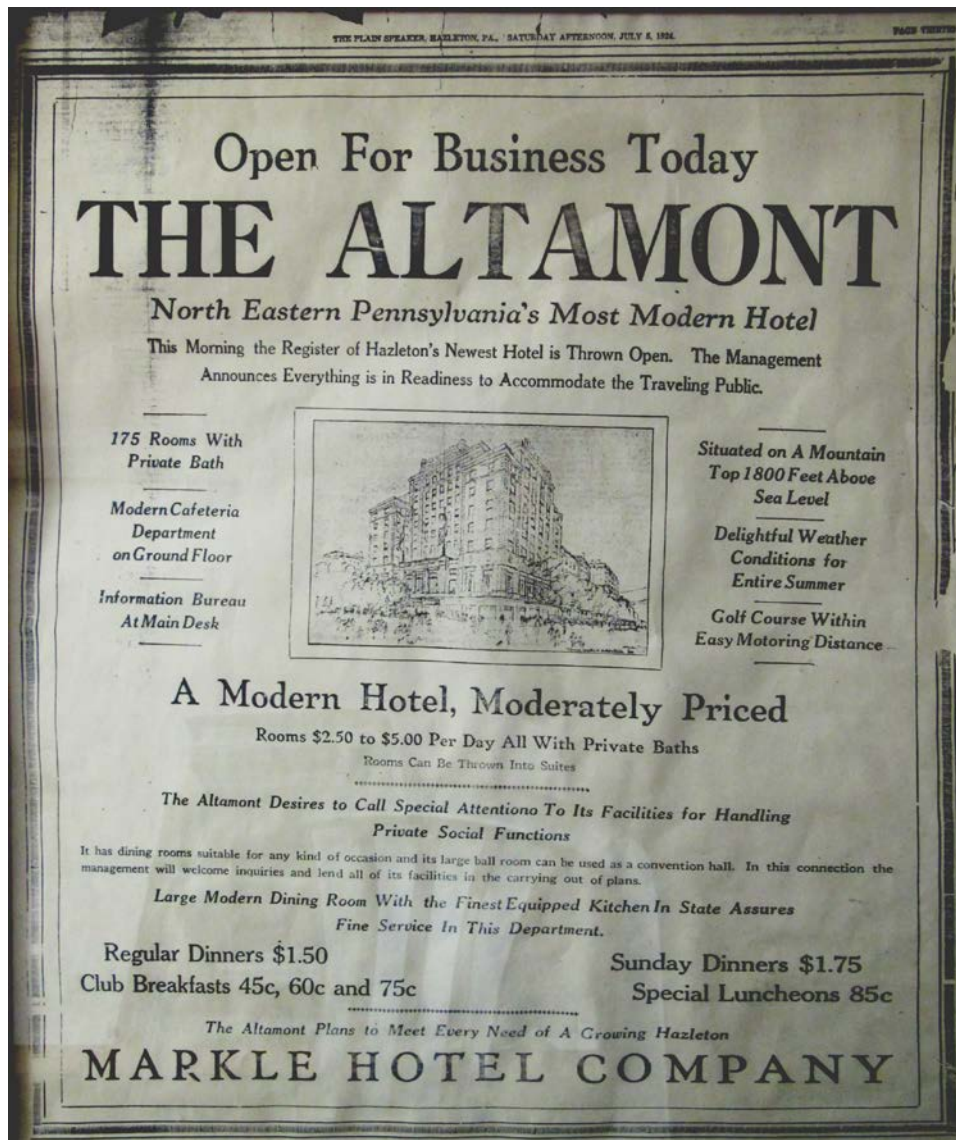County and State
**N/A**
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Historic Images      Page  4



**Figure 3 –** Ground Floor Plan, 1924.

**United States Department of the Interior**
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places
# Continuation Sheet

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| Hotel Altamont |
| --- |
| Name of Property |
| **Luzerne County, PA** |
| County and State |
| **N/A** |
| Name of multiple listing (if applicable) |

**Figure 4 –** First Floor Plan, 1924.

**United States Department of the Interior**

National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Hotel Altamont
Name of Property
**Luzerne County, PA**
County and State
**N/A**
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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**Figure 5 –** Second Floor Plan, 1924.

| Hotel Altamont |
| --- |
| Name of Property |
| **Luzerne County, PA** |
| County and State |
| **N/A** |
| Name of multiple listing (if applicable) |

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Historic Images      Page  7
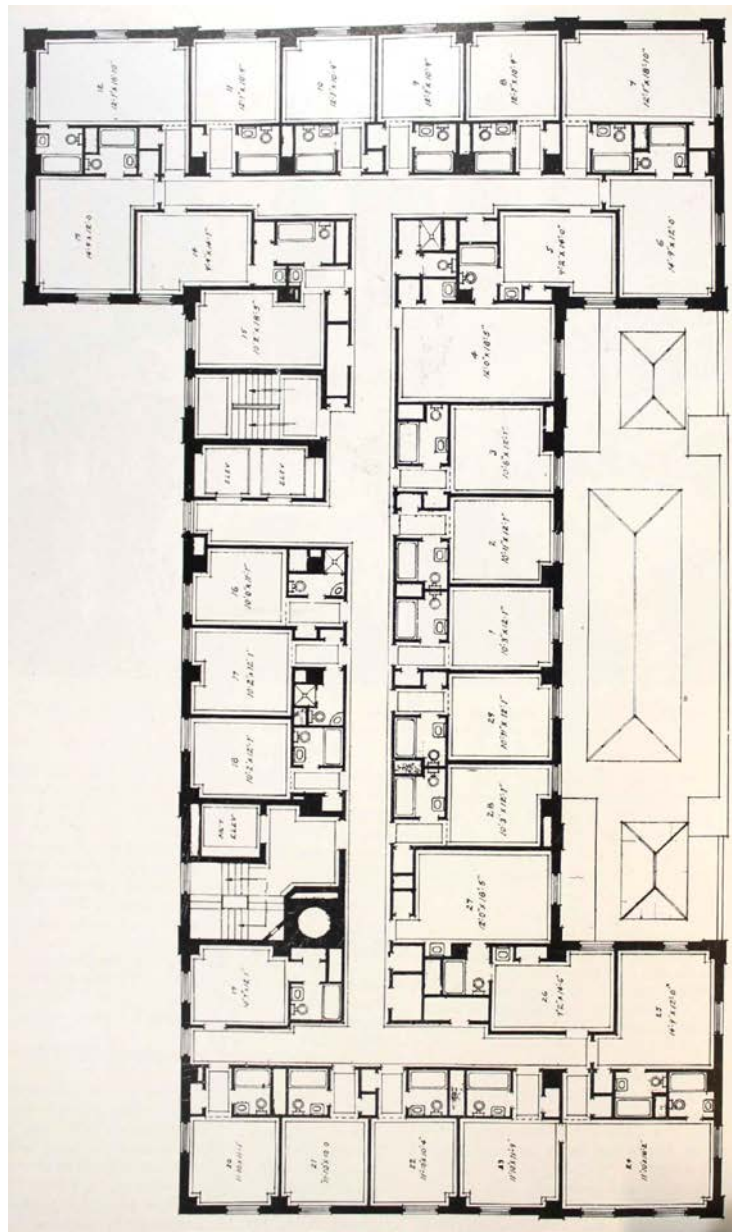


**Figure 6 –** Typical Upper Floor Plan, 1924.

**United States Department of the Interior**
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Hotel Altamont
Name of Property
**Luzerne County, PA**
County and State
**N/A**
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Historic Images     Page  8
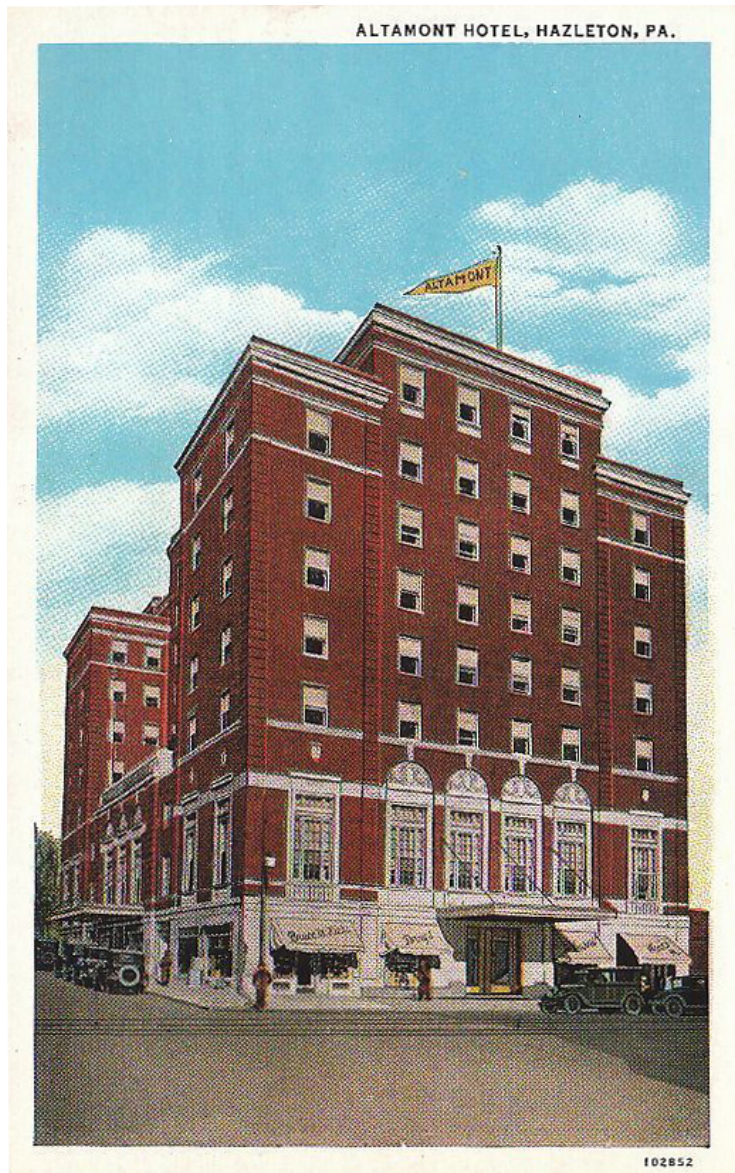


**Figure 7 –** Advertisement, *Plain Speaker*, July 5, 1924.

**United States Department of the Interior**
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Hotel Altamont
Name of Property
**Luzerne County, PA**
County and State
**N/A**
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Historic Images      Page  9



**Figure 8 –** Lobby, looking north, 1924.

| Hotel Altamont |
| Name of Property |
| **Luzerne County, PA** |
| County and State |
| **N/A** |
| Name of multiple listing (if applicable) |

**United States Department of the Interior**

National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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**Figure 9 –** Dining Room, looking north, 1924.

**United States Department of the Interior**
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet**

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| Hotel Altamont |
| --- |
| Name of Property |
| **Luzerne County, PA** |
| County and State |
| **N/A** |
| Name of multiple listing (if applicable) |



**Figure 10 –** Lobby Mezzanine, view south, 1924.

Hotel Altamont
Name of Property
**Luzerne County, PA**
County and State
**N/A**
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**United States Department of the Interior**
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**Figure 11 –** Historic Postcard, c. 1925

**United States Department of the Interior**

National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

| Hotel Altamont |
| --- |
| Name of Property |
| **Luzerne County, PA** |
| County and State |
| **N/A** |
| Name of multiple listing (if applicable) |

Historic Images      Page  13



**Figure 12** – Letter mailed on Hotel Altamont stationery in 1937.

**United States Department of the Interior**

National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Hotel Altamont** | |
| Name of Property | |
| **Luzerne County, PA** | |
| County and State | |
| **N/A** | |
| Name of multiple listing (if applicable) | |

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**Figure 13 –** View east on Broad Street from N. Church Street,
Hotel Altamont marquee at left, c. 1940

**United States Department of the Interior**
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Hotel Altamont
------------------------------------
Name of Property
**Luzerne County, PA**
------------------------------------
County and State
**N/A**
------------------------------------
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Historic Images     Page  15



**Figure 14 –** View from Hotel Altamont during speech of John F. Kennedy in 1960.

**United States Department of the Interior**

National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Hotel Altamont**

Name of Property
**Luzerne County, PA**

County and State
**N/A**

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Historic Images      Page  16



**Figure 15 –** Hotel Easton, Easton, PA. 1920s postcard.

**United States Department of the Interior**

National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Hotel Altamont
Name of Property
**Luzerne County, PA**
County and State
**N/A**
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Historic Images　　　Page  17



**Figure 16 –** Necho Allen Hotel, Pottsville, PA. 1920s postcard.

**Hotel Altamont**
145 W. Broad Street
Hazleton, Luzerne Co., PA

USGS Hazleton Quadrangle

Lat: 40.955000
Long: -75.976667

Old Sugar Loaf

COLUMBUS CT

W 1ST ST

W DIAMOND AVE

Hazle Cem

W MAPLE ST

N FULTON CT

N CEDAR ST

SHAFT RD

HAZLETON

N WYOMING ST

N POPLAR ST

1600

1600

Hazleton Station

93

S WYOMING ST

cust
tion

leton Junction

1600

1600

F

H

E BROAD ST

N WILSON

OL RD

**5**
**1**
**UP**
**DN**
**DN**
**UP**
**DN**
**UP**
**DN**
**UP**
**8**
**6**
**UP**
**UP**
**UP**
**DN**
**UP**
**UP**
**DN**
**9**
**7**
**4**
**DN**
**3**
**2**

W SPRUCE ST
W BROAD ST
N CHURCH ST

95'
87'
150'
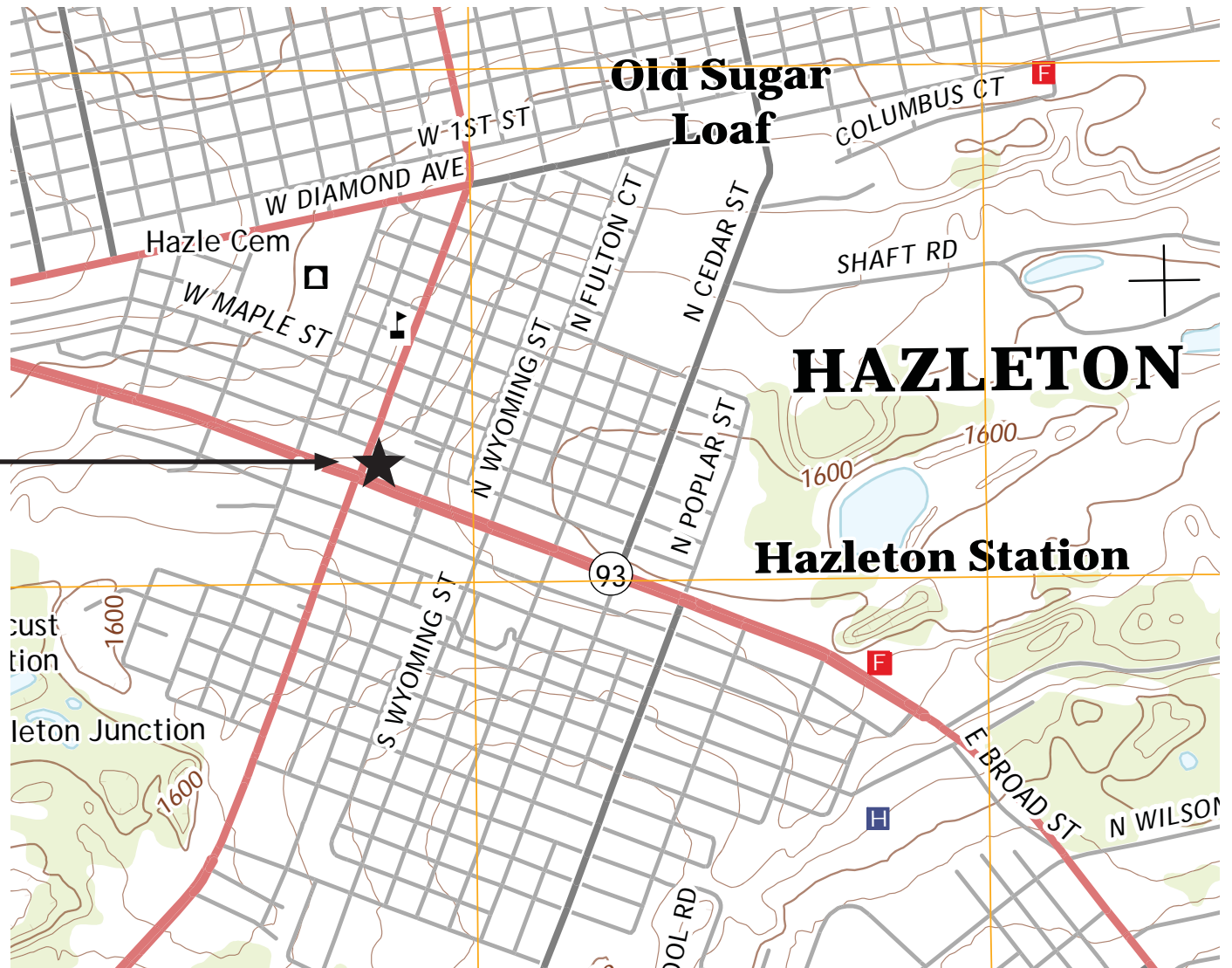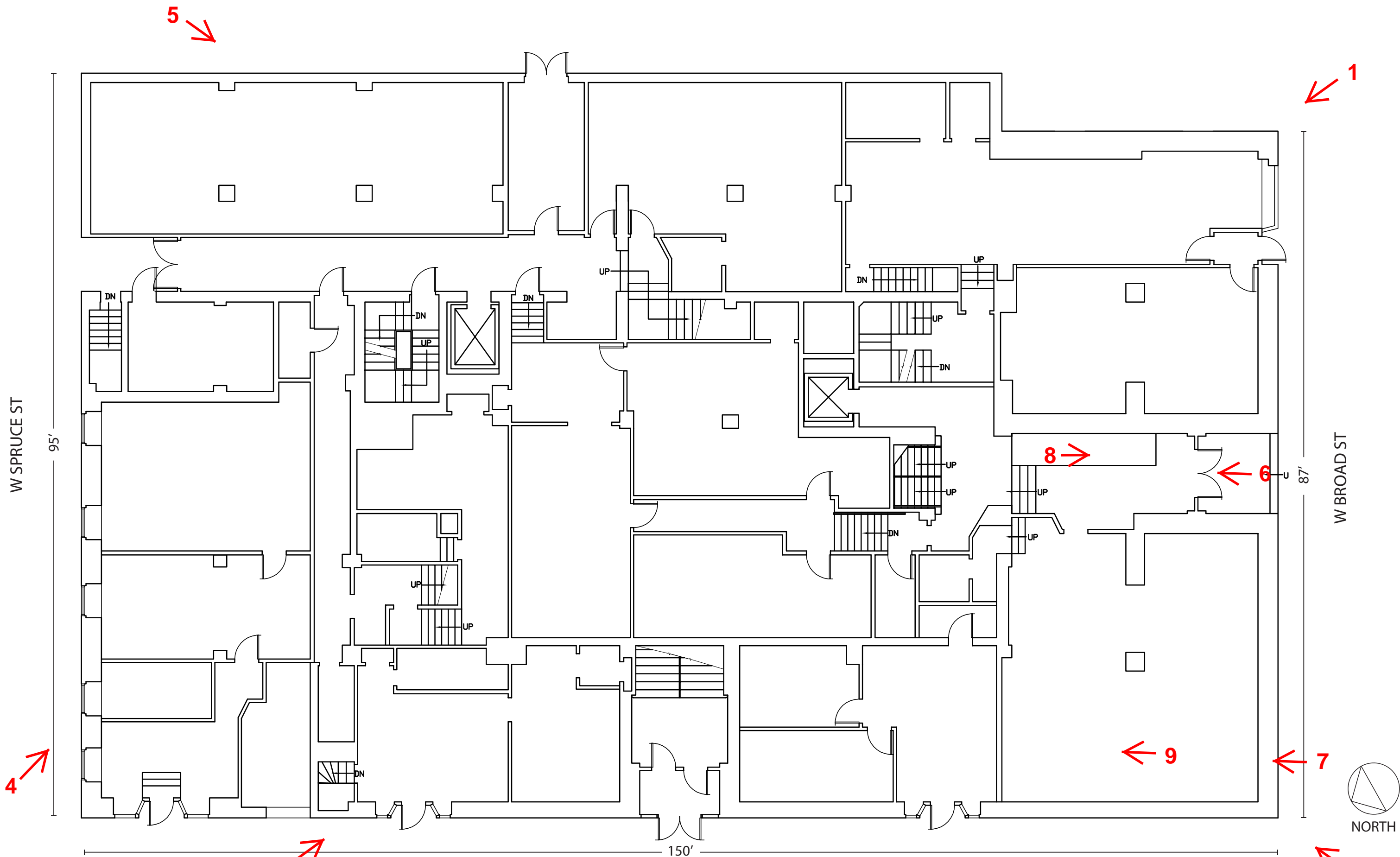
NORTH

Hotel Altamont
145 W. Broad Street
Hazleton, PA
Ground Floor Plan with Photograph Key

W SPRUCE ST

W BROAD ST

95′

87′

150′

NORTH

N CHURCH ST

Hotel Altamont
145 W. Broad Street
Hazleton, PA
1st Floor Plan with Photograph Key

W SPRUCE ST

W BROAD ST

N CHURCH ST

NORTH

87'

150'

**28** →

**27**

**26**

← **29**
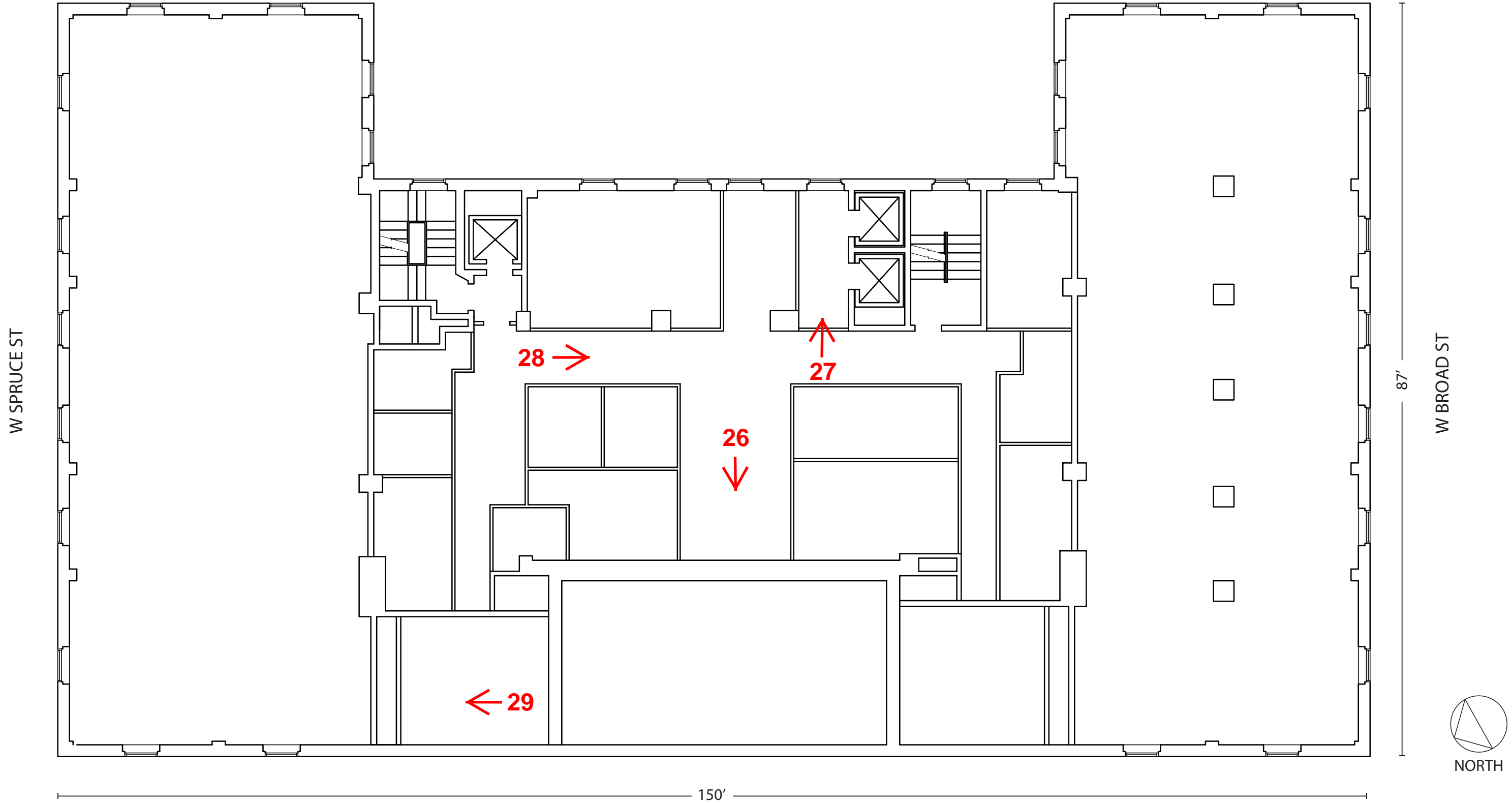
Hotel Altamont
145 W. Broad Street
Hazleton, PA
2nd Floor Plan with Photograph Key

W SPRUCE ST

W BROAD ST

N CHURCH ST

87'

150'

NORTH

BEDROOM

BEDROOM

BEDROOM

LIVING

VEST.

HOBBY

BEDROOM

DN

UP

EX

UP

DN

EX

**31**

**30**

**32**

Hotel Altamont
145 W. Broad Street
Hazleton, PA
3rd Floor Plan with Photograph Key

W SPRUCE ST

W BROAD ST

**BEDROOM** (multiple)

**BATH** (multiple)

LIVING

VEST.

HOBBY

LOUNGE

LAUNDRY

KITCHEN

DINING

OFFICE

STAFF

EXHAUST HOOD

UP · DN

**33 34 35 36 37 38**

87'

150'

NORTH

Hotel Altamont
145 W. Broad Street
Hazleton, PA
5th Floor Plan with Photograph Key

N CHURCH ST

**40**
**39 →**
**41**
**42**

DELAYED EGRESS
DELAYED EGRESS
DELAYED EGRESS

W SPRUCE ST

W BROAD ST

87'

150'

7 TH FLOOR REVISED
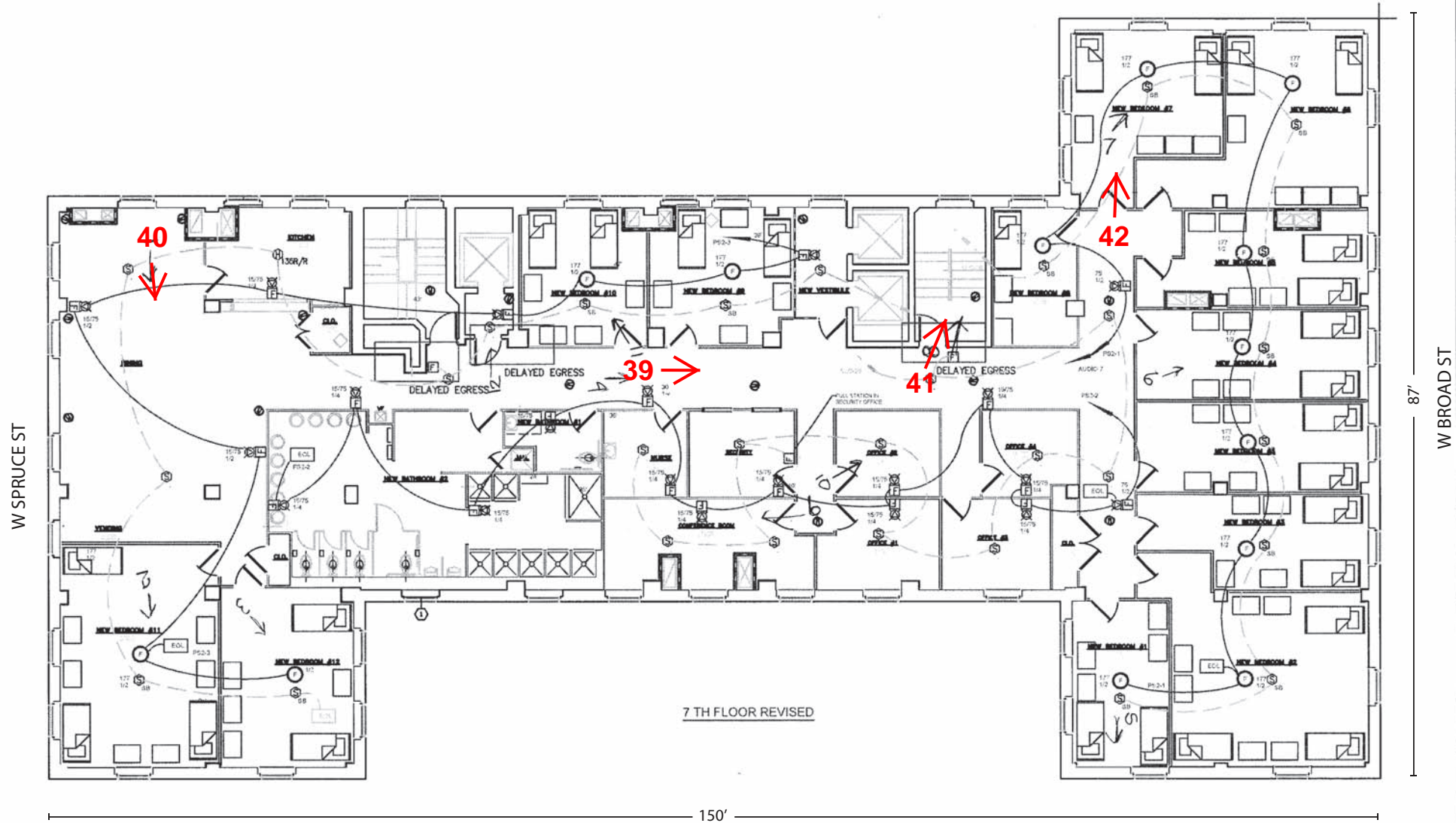
N CHURCH ST

Hotel Altamont
145 W. Broad Street
Hazleton, PA
7th Floor Plan with Photograph Key

NORTH

EXIT

FIRE
EXIT
ONLY

FIRE DOOR
KEEP CLOSED

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION:   NOMINATION

PROPERTY    Hotel Altamont
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY:   PENNSYLVANIA, Luzerne

DATE RECEIVED:        11/14/14      DATE OF PENDING LIST:   12/11/14
DATE OF 16TH DAY:     12/26/14      DATE OF 45TH DAY:       12/31/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER:   14001101


REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:   N   DATA PROBLEM: N   LANDSCAPE: N   LESS THAN 50 YEARS:   N
OTHER:    N   PDIL:         Y   PERIOD:    N   PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:   N
REQUEST:  Y   SAMPLE:       N   SLR DRAFT: N   NATIONAL:             N

COMMENT WAIVER:   N

√ ACCEPT      ___RETURN      ___REJECT   12/29/2014   DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:







RECOM./CRITERIA   Accept A & C

REVIEWER   Patrick Andrus        DISCIPLINE   Historian

TELEPHONE _____        DATE   12/29/2014

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the
nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

December 23, 2014

Patrick Andrus, Historian
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service, US Department of Interior
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW, 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: Hotel Altamont nomination

Dear Patrick:

Enclosed is a disc containing the updated National Register nomination form for the Hotel Altamont, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. The nomination form has been updated to include the previously missing "Proposed National Register Boundary" map.

If there are any further questions or comments about the Hotel Altamont nomination, please feel free to contact me at 717-783-9918 or damaher@pa.gov.

Sincerely,
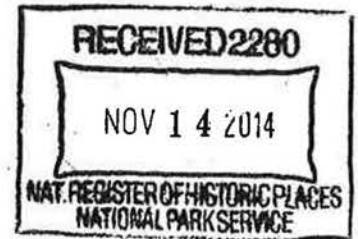
Dave Maher
National Register Reviewer/Central Region

enc.

**Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission**

November 5, 2014

Carol Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service, US Department of Interior
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW, 8th Floor
Washington D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms Shull:

The following National Register nominations are being submitted for your review:

1. **Edwin J. Schoettle Company Building,** Philadelphia Co., PA. Enclosed please find a signed first page, a CD containing the true and correct copy of the nomination, two CDs with tif images, and copies of correspondence.
2. **Franklinville School,** Montgomery Co., PA. Enclosed please find a signed first page, a CD containing the true and correct copy of the nomination, a second CD with tif images, and copies of correspondence.
3. **Hotel Altamont,** Luzerne Co., PA. Enclosed please find a signed first page, a CD containing the true and correct copy of the nomination, two CDs with tif images, and copies of correspondence.
4. **Jenkintown Wyncote Train Station,** Montgomery County, PA. Enclosed please find a signed first page, a CD containing the true and correct copy of the nomination, a second CD with tif images, and copies of correspondence.
5. **Manchester School #3,** Erie Co., PA. Enclosed please find a complete paper version of the nomination with a signed first page, and a CD containing tif images.
6. **Pittsburgh Mercantile,** Allegheny Co., PA. Enclosed please find a complete paper version of the nomination with a signed first page, correspondence, and a CD containing tif images.
7. **R&H Simon Silk Mill Complex,** Northampton Co., PA. Enclosed please find a signed first page, a CD containing the true and correct copy of the nomination, and a second CD with tif images, and copies of correspondence.